Former Phila. 'Quiz Kid' Founded Student Group in CIA Controversy

By LAWRENCE M. CAMPBELL
Of The Bulletin Staff

A one-time Philadelphia "Quiz Kid" was mentioned prominently last week in reports that the Central Intelligence Agency channeled funds to the National Student Association and other youth groups for work abroad.

He is Dr. Paul E. Sigmund, Jr., 37, now an associate professor of political science at Princeton University.

Dr. Sigmund, a native of Wyncote, became an officer in the NSA in 1954 when he was a graduate student at Harvard University.

He is reportedly a founder of the Independent Research Service, of New York, in 1958.

Both NSA and the Independent Research Service allegedly were funnelled money by the CIA, through private foundations.

On Study Project in Chile

Dr. Sigmund is now on a study project at the Rockefeller Foundation in Santiago, Chile, with his wife, the former Barbara Boggs. She is the daughter of Rep. Hale Boggs (D-La), House Majority Whip. They left about two weeks ago and will not be back until July or August.

Peter R. Sigmund, a brother, of Port Washington, N. Y. said his brother had done "quite a lot" of work with college youth groups. Peter Sigmund said he knew nothing about the alleged CIA connection with the work.

Sigmund's mother, Mrs. Paul E., Sr., a widow, said she was well acquainted with her son's work and interest in NSA through the years. She said she knew nothing of the report that he was a founder of the Independent Research Service.

"He always calls this house, and me, the Central Intelligence Agency," she quipped. "So I guess he must have had some contact with them.

'Forgot to Check With CIA'

"Whenever he's home and his social engagements get mixed up he'll say he forgot to check with the CIA. That's me."

Mrs. Sigmund, who lives in Wyncote, is a remedial reading teacher in the Philadelphia school system.

W. Dennis Shaul, now a lawyer in Akron, O., was president of both NSA and Independent

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Research Service in 1962. He said he had worked closely with Paul Sigmund.

Sigmund's work with the Independent Research Service after 1960, Shaul said, was "peripheral," although he kept in touch and took part in some "legitimate fund-raising activities and tried to get independent and progressive young people interested" in the work.

Will Always Be 'Suspect'

"Paul is an excellent person and developed great contacts abroad," Shaul said. "He is an expert in political movements, and has done a great deal of traveling abroad — I would say 90 percent on his own. ?

"He is one of those persons who have spent a lot of time and selfless effort developing contacts — not espionage — and now all his work and contacts have been compromised.

"No matter where he goes or what he is doing he will always be suspect."

Shaul said he is not certain whether the CIA had financed the Independent Research Service. But he said if he were still president of that group or the NSA, he would continue to

Tax money?

accept CIA funds.

Regrets the Story

The charge that the CIA financed and infiltrated the independent student groups was made by Ramparts, a San Francisco magazine. It released the information last week, although the article will not appear until later this month in the March issue.

Shaul said: "I regret the whole thing." He said he meant the Ramparts story, not the source of the funds.

"I feel this group of people, both in Ramparts and in the NSA, have done a disservice," Shaul said.

Ramparts charged that the CIA used NSA as a tool of foreign diplomacy and a spy network.

Shaul said the CIA had not infiltrated the student group, and he said students had not been used as spies. oh no?

Shaul said the student members of NSA set the organization's policies and programs, and that he viewed the CIA as he would have any other source of money.

Was a "Quiz Kid'

Sigmund, who in 1941 came out first in a "Quiz Kid" com-

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petition against 3,000 other Philadelphia youngsters, was graduated from Georgetown University and then attended Harvard University, where he received both a master's degree and a PhD. He also studied in England under a Fulbright Scholarship.

During his Harvard days, he first became active in the NSA.

In 1952 — the year the CIA allegedly began siphoning funds into NSA through private foundations — the NSA moved its national headquarters from Boulder, Colo., to Philadelphia. It first moved into the Gimbel Building at 9th and Market sts., and later had offices at 37th and Chestnut sts.

The international division of NSA, however, did not come to Philadelphia but set up separate quarters in Cambridge, Mass. The CIA reportedly forwarded funds only to the international division for work abroad.

Elected Vice President

Sigmund was elected vice president for international affairs in 1954 at the NSA convention in Ames, Iowa. He was assigned to oversee the association's foreign student program and keep in touch with 41 other student unions around the globe.

The post was one of three fulltime salaried elective offices in the NSA at that time.

Sigmund, an Air Force Reservist, was called to active duty in 1956-57 and served in Germany.

He reportedly helped found the Independent Research Service in New York in 1958, just before the Vienna Youth Festival of 1959.

Lady Bird at Wedding

The Independent Research Service sent a delegation of more than 100 students, teachers and intellectuals to the Communist youth festival at Helsinki, Finland, in 1962.

Shaul said he was among those who attended the conference. The U. S. delegation disrupted the meeting by publishing a newspaper, running an information service and taking part in forums.

Shaul said the group, although it was liberal and did not reflect American policy, accomplished much good at the festival that year.

Sigmund joined the faculty at Princeton early in 1963. In January, of 1964 he married Miss Boggs in Washington.

Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson attended the wedding. Both she and President Johnson attended the reception at the Boggs home, in suburban Bethesda, Md.